



## Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative Sponsored Field Trips TEACHER GUIDE

### What is Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative (KMI)?

Our funding, your school – KMI supports the essential math skills needed by every Kindergartener. DuPage Children's Museum launched the **Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative (KMI)** in 2006 to provide sponsored Learning Lab Field Trips to all public school kindergarteners in DuPage County.



### What does my school get when we participate in the Initiative?

- Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative Learning Lab Field Trips include one of two Learning Labs—pick from the *Patterns, Strategies and Number Sense* or *GeoSpace* Learning Labs—PLUS time to explore the Museum Exhibit Neighborhoods.
- Teachers will be provided with pre- and post-visit materials explaining how the Learning Lab and their classroom's visit to the Museum helps meet Illinois Learning Goals and the new NCTM Focal Points, and how to extend children's learning based on Museum exhibits.
- Teachers will also receive information for students to take home to their families about what their children learned at the Museum.
- Students will receive a coupon providing a free adult or child admission to encourage students and their parents/caregivers to visit the museum on their own.

### Which School Districts Qualify?

All DuPage County public school districts qualify to participate.

### How do I register?

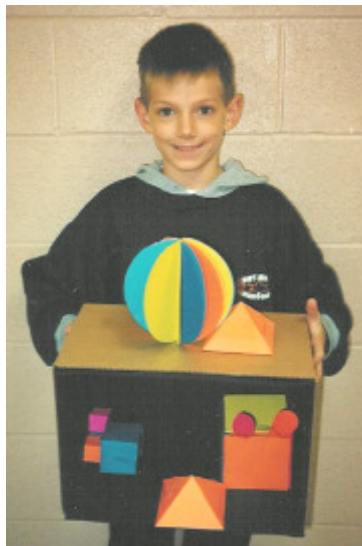
A minimum of one month's advance notice is required. Dates are available all school year, but request your dates as early as possible for best availability. October, November, early December, and January are all lower attendance months at the Museum, making them excellent months to visit.

Choose from one of two highly successful, curriculum-aligned Learning Labs: *GeoSpace* or *Patterns, Strategies and Number Sense*. Your class will split your time at the Museum between the Learning Lab and free exploration of the Museum Exhibit Neighborhoods. Initiative visits last anywhere from 1½ to 3 hours. The *GeoSpace* Learning Lab requires a 2 ½ or 3 hour visit. The *Patterns, Strategies & Number Sense* Learning Lab can be booked for a 1½ or 2 hour visit. Visits can be in the morning or the afternoon, Tuesdays through Fridays. Up to two classes or 60 students may attend in one visit. Multiple visits can be made on the same date.



### **Patterns, Strategies and Number Sense**

Explore sorting, classifying, patterning and geometry in this unique lab. Children use and apply the language of mathematics as they gain understanding and insight using common objects. Analytical thinking, problem solving skills and spatial sense emerge during this hands-on, interactive experience.



### **GeoSpace**

Transform two-dimensional paper shapes into three-dimensional geometric solids. Students construct their own "geo-worlds" with cylinders, cubes, prisms and cones. Through physical manipulation of shapes and solids, students will internalize basic geometric principals.

**Each participating school within a qualifying district must submit a request.** All requests will be filled in the order they are received. Read our FAQ's, then print, complete, and fax the downloadable request form for your school. Go to our website at [http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/programs\\_school.html](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/programs_school.html).

## Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who pays for transportation to the Museum?**

**A:** You and your school and/or district are responsible for arranging and paying for transportation to DCM for Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative.

**Q: Can the Museum bring the Learning Lab to my school for an in-school field trip?**

**A:** Yes, but not as a part of the Initiative. Exploration of the Museum's Exhibit Neighborhoods is part of the Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative. In order to take advantage of this sponsored opportunity, your school must travel to DCM. Find out about paid, in-school Learning Labs at [http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/programs\\_labs.html](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/programs_labs.html).



**Q: Can a special needs aide attend our field trip with the student s/he works with in my classroom?**

**A:** Yes, include special needs aides in your count of "Educators" on the Learning Lab Field Trip request form. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about Museum accessibility for children and adults of all abilities.

**Q: Can we eat at the Museum during our visit?**

**A:** Lunch room facilities are not provided as a part of the Initiative. Time is not built into the schedule for lunch or snack during Initiative visits. If you believe your students will need to eat during their visit, contact us before submitting your Learning Lab Field Trip request.

**Q: Can my school bring three classes in one visit?**

**A:** If your three classes total no more than 60 students, then we can accommodate all of them in one visit. Each Initiative visit will consist of up to two Learning Lab sessions. Your Learning Lab is designed for 25-30 students, an audience of one classroom at a time. The maximum number of students we can accommodate in one Learning Lab session is 30.

**Q: What is the difference between the different visit time lengths?**

**A:** Different amounts of time to learn and play! We understand that some districts must work within the restraints of a normal arrival and dismissal schedule. We have offered the varying time options at the request of many participating schools, so that kindergartners can come to DCM but won't miss their bus rides home.

**Q: Does the Initiative cover admission for parent chaperones?**

**A:** Yes, the Initiative covers all admission costs (adult chaperones, educators, and students).

**Q: Is there a limit to how many parents can come along?**

**A:** We strongly recommend that you limit the number of parents to 1 for every 4 children. Past experience informs us that your Learning Lab will be most effective and your participants most comfortable when the lab space is not overcrowded.

**Q: Can parent chaperones bring younger siblings (infants or toddlers) on the field trip?**

**A:** No, admission for siblings is not covered by the Initiative grant. Parent chaperones will be asked to act as facilitators, not just casual observers. The Learning Lab is age-appropriate for the kindergarten classroom. For the safety of all participants, younger brothers and sisters are not permitted to attend.

## **Why did DCM launch Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative?**

DuPage Children's Museum launched the **Kindergarten Mathematics Initiative** in 2006 to provide **sponsored Learning Lab Field Trips to all public school kindergarteners in DuPage County** by the 2008-09 school year. DCM currently serves about 20,000 students annually through 8 school Learning Labs that provide high-quality math and science curriculum aligned with the Illinois State Learning Standards. There are many schools with the ability to enroll their students in our Learning Labs, and many without that ability. We wish to "level the playground" by expanding our school programs and focusing on the essential "gateway skills" year of kindergarten. We will do this by offering Learning Labs to every kindergartener in DuPage County over the course of three school years.



Mayors Pradel and Krajewski welcome a Kindergartener from Indian Trail School (Downers Grove Grade School District 58)

## **How did DuPage Children's Museum do it?**

In the first year of the Initiative, Comcast and a local Charter One bank funded field trips for well over 4,000 kindergarten students. Comcast awarded DuPage Children's Museum the Presidential Award for the first time outside of Chicago, providing funding over a three-year period. The Initiative began by serving kindergarten students and teachers in communities adjacent to DCM, and has spread outward in succeeding years.

## **Special thanks to our generous School Programs sponsors:**

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